a 36

1913

be very good. We shall probably go up to London on Wednesday - & attempt again to buy a horse. This place gets hotter & hotter — 3 days so hot that we sat ASHEHAM HOUSE, out in the shade. I had a very healthy life - the clock RODMELL, now strikes nine, & I begin to undress, & then fetches me a great tumbler of milk, wh. I walk up LEWES. down. Then sleep & moan - then lie down in the afternoon — then bask in the garden where a snake 3 ft long was Friday 25th April. killed to day. There is a pest among the lambs - yrs B.
They creep up to the hedges die.

Beloved

I'm glad to find that you like Venice.
because I thought it detestable when we were there,
both times — & it might be due to insanity but
I suppose the obscure reaches might be beautiful -
There isn't much news to tell you, apt on a very
rural kind. The garden certainly does you great credit -
Both the long beds are now full of flowers, mostly
cut, & every day new ones bloom — except the
peonies, which are cut in front, but not at the
back. We are undertaking tremendous labours.
The large round bed has been thoroughly burnt for
2 days — mercifully the rain held off. I am
terracing, & tomorrow we begin digging under
the trees & planting foxgloves & wall flowers.
However, much remains to be done — we mean to
renovate the grass entirely. To our horror, when
we came down, two raw new Christmas trees,
each with a note tied to it, were planted in

I am amazed to hear how fa- has fallen in love at last. I only hope he wears something suitable. Sydney says your white & flowers were stronger than the perfume I've heard great praise of Jean's various Creations. Sydney almost made me sick. However up Hamilton has the good fortune to have a Quiver

front of the window, the work of Jean a lunatic, reached from Eastbourne. The question is how to destroy them tactfully. No doubt you can suggest something. They are to commemorate our marriage a novel, etc. Simply to uproot them. We were invaded Emma two days ago. It was as hot as June, & may arrived in thick stuff coats & skirts, with mufflers made of white blanketing, for as Mary said, one never knows in April when it went from suddenly cold, although today it does seem fine at last. So unlike the past week - but last year of course remember - so the sun is for 3 or 4 hours, & Leonard was entranced, enough to physically repulsed by Emma who became skittish at the sight of him that he couldn't sit near her. They said that they dread the long summer evenings particularly - when one always so disappointing, & one can't light lamps, things aren't really daylight. They have been out a hoard, in the midst of George Freshfield, who all patronise them - lend them motors etc &c. Lisa has not yet turned up. We saw Otto Levis before we came here, & found her charming, with a bloom upon her cheeks, & certainly more life in her She has brought a hoard of 15th century, with enormous yew hedges. - Everything in keeping. When the dot isn't conquest, I think she is well worth seeing. Tomorrow Sidney comes here, to accompany for his divorce case, which he has invited Leonard to attend - We shall make him dig. Mrs Farnell's daughter has now been taken ill: she has swollen to a great size, & Mrs F. suspects dropsy. Considering her symptoms I should say a Child, but I suppose they would be anxious about it for that. I have just heard that the both cases have come. We have also heard that L. has sold 600 copies of his book, which is thought to

HAMILTON 13/12/67

I am amazed to hear how fa- -mous Lina has fallen - Love at last. I only hope he wears his mantle resignedly. Sydney says your white & shimmering stones were the best- I've heard great praise

front of the windows, the work of Jean a lunatic, escaped from Eastbourne. The question is how to destroy them tactfully. No doubt you can suggest means to buy or to commemorate our marriage a novel, [illegible] simply to uproot them. We were invad- -ed - Emma two days ago. It was as hot as June, & May arrived in thick stuff coats & skirts, with mufflers made of white blanketing, for as Mary said one never knows in April when it went from suddenly cold, although today it does seem fine at last. So unlike the past week - but last year of course you remember - so the sun can for 3 or 4 hours, & Leonard was entranced, though so physically repulsed by Emma who became skittish at the sight of him that he couldn't sit near her. They said that they dread the long summer evenings particularly - when one always so disappointing, & one can't light lamps, though it's really daylight. They have been lent a house, in the midst of George Mansfield, who all patronize them - lend them motors etc &c. Lisa has not yet turned up. We saw Otto Leiz before we came here, & found her charming, with a bloom upon her cheeks, & certainly more life in her, She has bought a house, 15th Century, with enormous yew hedges - Everything in keeping. When the divorce is through she will be a wall worth seeing. Tomorrow Sidney comes here, to recoup for his divorce case, which he has invited Leonard to attend - We shall make him dig. Mrs Fennells daughter has now been taken ill; she has swollen to a great size, & Mrs F. suspects dropsy. Considering her symptoms I should say a child, but I suppose they won't be anxious to cut for that. I have just heard that the both cases have come. We have also heard that L. has sold 600 copies of this book, which is thought to

NYPL

HAMILL 12/24/69

a.37

3 August 1914

Cathcart.

Monday.

Dearest,

Would it be possible for you to borrow have half the rent - £15 - before we go away? 2 I'm afraid this sounds like poor relations, but we've got very little balance, & if war breaks out, we shall probably be in difficulties for ready money. Of course, don't bother, if you can always save up, seeing we are in the same state. We can always live up [illegible] in Northumberland, & stay there till you come. & so save railway fares &c.

We are just (4. P.M) off

to Lewes to get a paper. There were none
at breakfast this morning, but the
postman brought rumours that 2 your
warships were sunk - however, when we
did get papers we found that peace still
reigns - save for a stop press message that
England has joined in - It is rather like
Napoleonic times I daresay, a bracing
Bank holiday & course makes us more
remote from life than ever. The only
difference here is that a great many
special trains are being run to take
English people off the boats from France;
& there are no boat trains from Victoria -
Duncan went off yesterday, hoping that war
would make yatching impossible - Your
jewels have not come yet.

grows a vision & pleasure to see
you. I'm thought you 50 times each
day - what fun we may be said to be
a kind of running base.
We shall come up on Thursday
I do adore her.
I suppose.. VB.

12/20/61

1916 v

1916

Hogarth,

April 5th Richmond.

Dearest,

I was on the point writing to you when your parcel of daffodils came in, which I suppose I may interpret as an embrace, (but you have to write as well) Are they wild ones? They look like it. I suppose they grow all about your lake with blue flowers, & pear blossom — & you're as happy as the day, & have quite forgotten the fleasome Singleo.[2]

I don't know what news there is to tell you — but I daresay one or two things have happened. I went to tea with old Janet Case the other day, & found her mending Sophie's mole grey blouse with an edging of white frill, which took me back to the 18 gothic. She is still more or less bed ridden, & keeps her finger in the Jane, though she was writing an article upon illegitimacy in Sweden for a newspaper. Downstairs, Sophie was playing very badly on the violin to a party of wounded soldiers. The house is crowded with photographs of old pupils, deceased parents & the Elgin Marbles, & they have covers to all the po's. Does this convey any of the spirit of Hampstead to you? They seem to float along very cheerfully, & with amazing sweetness of temper. I sat & gormped, & Janet mended her blouse all wrong, & Then we went to tea with Sid it over again.

the Squires, who live at Chiswick; & we found a children's party going on, & several gaunt prolific mothers, & we were much in the way, as Squire was ent. So we walked up & down the Embankment, & they went back, & were shown all his first editions. The children were very inferior to Quentin & Julian – such common lumpish brats, without any spirit – However, 2 were too young to talk. Squire had just bought a book for a shilling that was worth £10; & he had exchanged it for an Ancient Breviary which seemed to me very dull. He is a thorough Collector & Journalist – but I rather like her.

By the way, I've got in touch with Violet again. I thought I'd write & ask her why she objected to my living at Brunswick Sq^re, & whether she wished to drop me on that account. She writes back in the usual facetious style, doesn't mention Brunswick Sq^re, & asks me to tea, which I shall do, & then I shall know. Did you Answer charge? – & what did you say? Nelly & Lottie went to tea with Jessie, & evidently had a terrific gossip about Sophie, who is coming here tomorrow. Jessie said she had behaved disgracefully, & she would never go near her again. What was unfortunate, as I had been telling Nelly all Sophie's virtues, & want them to give her tea in the kitchen. Nelly is an odd character – She sits up every night till 1 watching for Zeppelins, & so I said she had better sleep in the kitchen, as a joke. But she took it up very seriously, & is going to fore Lottie to sleep with her in camp beds, among all the beetles. Happy? I'm Come near you? What do you do? do the Zeppelins going to write Duncan a criticism on his pictures now. What do you & he think of Turner? I've got to review a book on Ruskin. I wish you'd tell me. Something about Ruskin & Turner.

Write, Dolphin, & you'll then get an answer.

You can't think how I miss you. I'm going to the dentist, & if you were here, I shd. come in to tea. Yr

13

Postmark Apr 14 1916

TELEPHONE 496 RICHMOND.

Hogarth House,
Richmond.

Friday.

Dearest,

I am much better now — in fact I got up yesterday for an hour, & I am to get it fine, on Sunday. Leonard is going to Asheham with Lottie on Monday to warm the house, & I shall go on Tuesday. We've got Lytton & Sanger coming on Thursday for Easter. Ferguson says I shall have the very centre for a fortnight, but I shan't trouble my head about Victory. It will be a mercy to get into the country. I think I have a very great gift for waiting I enjoyed your description of country life immensely. But dont you miss that sweet voice & bright eyed Ape 2 Otherwise I think it must be heavenly to feel there's no telephone, & gossip is to the moment stilled. I've got absolutely no news, as I've not seen anyone. Violet Dickinson is coming to tea to say. — I'll question her about Gar &

Brunswick & I can. I had a long visit from Sophy the day I got ill. She now has grown quite their, & very small. She was very dismal & apprehensive doesn't at all like being with aunt Vanessa & lives an her memories of the past. She is almost doddering absent & has lives & old furniture & old days, & said she had nothing now to look forward to. When we had Gerald & Adrian & Karin - Gerald was very welcome, & grey as a badger. He asked after you, & was much amused to hear of your anti conscription work. He treated us all as small children, & Madame feel how hopelessly in the minority we are. Sylvia has been writing to Leonard about very official & pompous. NYPL

I am being very careful, as I don't at all want to have to go to bed at Asheham - I suppose I shall be able to go to that house again - but Leonard might. Your Outlooks are most lovely, & there were such lots that the servants had some two. do write soon - I do like getting your letters We shall be a fortnight at least at Asheham - I went you'd come & stay with us.

Love B.

Give my love to Duncan - I should much appreciate a letter from him

HOMILL 12/29/64

April 22 - 1916.

Abraham.

Saturday,

Dearest,

Here we are sitting in the drawing room with the windows open & the rooks cawing. Sangers voice is to be heard bubbling up one bright remark after another. Lytton is rather languid & cadaverous, but as smooth as silk. I have to spend the morning segregated, as Craig sent a message to tell me to be stay in bed till lunch. However, I rather like it, as I just dip in when I feel in the mood for conversation. Its no good worrying about one's visitors, & if they find it dull, I dont see that it can be helped. Its been quite fine since Thursday, though to begin with we had gales & rain & wind, & various

misadventures. L. came down on Monday
to find no fires lit, & he & Lottie had to
set to & get the house ready. Bella
Wooler burst into tears, & refuses to
do anything more for us, partly I think
because of the coal so L. has to pump
& do the E. Cs. Then Lottie said she
thought she'd got influenza, & had to be
put to bed – but she recovered at once, &
now works like a horse, & chatters to
Evelyn & without any fear. London
seems miles away, except for these damned
newspapers – Sanger has awful stories
about conscientious objectors shipped to
France & there shot. He is very red eyed
& wizened & over worked, but he pumps up
the most amazing quips & cranks, & his
eyes glow & he looks like one of the
dwarfs in the Ring. We went for a
walk yesterday & he told me how his
father was a chemist, & made a small
fortune & bought a house at Dorking
& longed for the county to call upon &

him, but they wouldn't, & then (when Charlie was doing well at Cambridge, old Sanger got the asthma, & couldn't receive guests. So he died, & his life was a tragedy, & now the chemists business is going bust owing to the war. Sanger trots about in white trousers with black stripes, like the deck of a ship, & a black coat on top. Lytton & I gossip about Ottoline & books, & last night he readers his Florena Nightingale, which is very amusing. However, you say you want gossip about Gerald. I plunged into the nineties last week – what with Gerald & Violet. The odd thing is that they haven't changed since Hyde Park gate. Violet still very Kapdash & peculiar in a blue serge tailor made slapping her thigh & asking innumerable questions. Gerald paternal & wholly laired & rather patronising. Ozzie says Gerald is violently in love – but Violet couldn't remember who with. Then we heard all about Lady Butler's death, & her silk dresses hanging in the wardrobe, a lovely ultra Russian jacket

for the boy who died, & Beatrice counted
out 50 matches & said the cook must
make them last a week, & she has
£2,000 a year, & a flat in Grays Inn,
& Katie cooks the legs of rabbits in
a keepers lodge at Welwyn, & Lord
Cromer has the backs, & Katie wears
a nightgown under her dress to save
packing, & Ozzie Jenj with the Asquiths
& Mrs Drew eats raw carrots & is
cured of rheumatism, & Violet
packs pyjamas in the Midland Road
& Lady Desborough has had all
Rupert's poems printed privately, &
Violet Asquith says she loved him as
she has never loved any man, &
Asquith is carried to bed drunk by Lillah
MacCarthy — Now in return for all this,
for God's sake tell me how Ott: & Roger
have made it up, together with any
other items of Bloomsbury gossip.
I saw Molly, who was going to Ott.
for Easter, rather brisked in the head
by a Swedish doctor, but not very
quick in the wits. By the way, Helen
& Bernard Holland
have both become
R. Roman Catholics.

NYPL

Hanwell c/1/66